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May 1, 2014 by Brittany — 31 Comments

## The Secret To Perfect Amigurumi + Crochet Ball Pattern



It's been a little quiet on the blog for the past couple weeks. As some of you may know we added another beagle to our home so I've been busy chasing around *two* mischievous little beagles. Now that things have calmed down a bit and Jake and Sadie have adjusted really well with each other I can get back to being crafty!

And...if I'm being totally honest I've been in a tiny creative block lately. I go through spurts where I have an idea....try it out and it's a disaster. This has been my past two weeks. Failed projects can be so frustrating in any craft but especially with crochet and knit projects because they take soooooo much time. Nothing is more annoying than putting about a weeks worth of evenings into a project and have it go all wrong! Please say I am not alone in this! Anybody?? haha

But...failed projects usually bring out new inspiration. I've been working on designing some new amigurumi patterns that just aren't as good as I want them to be yet and it could be weeks before I feel they are blog worthy so I got to thinking....not everybody knows what amigurumi is! And I also thought it would be fun to share some tips and tricks that I wish I would have known when I was first learning amigurumi.

### So what is amigurumi anyway?

Amigurumi is the Japanese art of crocheting little creatures/objects such as animals, people, food, characters...anything really, the possibilities are endless!! Do a google search of

“amigurumi \_\_\_?\_\_\_”, and trust me you will probably find it. Once you enter the world of amigurumi you will be obsessed and your life will change forever!

Part of the reason I enjoy this type of crocheting so much is that its typically easy and the projects are small and can be made in a relatively short amount of time. And, kids love them!! They make really great gifts, and are always a conversation starter.

Generally, amigurumi projects are comprised of single crochets in the round with increases and decreases. Each piece is crocheted, stuffed, and closed off. Then all individual pieces are sewn together with a yarn needle. I share some helpful tips on attaching amigurumi limbs [here](#).

## What is the secret to perfect amigurumi?

I guess maybe perfect isn't the word I should use here as it's the little imperfections that make handmade things beautiful, but you can get pretty darn close! My crocheting skills are far from perfect and I am by no means an expert! But, I am telling you these tips have made a world of difference in my skill and I hope they help you too!

### 1. Use a tiny crochet hook!

I use a 3.5 mm hook and worsted weight acrylic yarn, usually Red Heart because it's cheap and comes in almost every color. The tiny hook really makes the yarn cling to itself really well so that the holes between stitches are basically non-existent. My first couple of projects I used a 5 mm crochet hook and they just didn't look as nice as the projects made with a smaller hook.

### 2. Take your time!

I don't think I can emphasize this point enough. When making an amigurumi project take your time when you are sewing all the parts together. Take the time to plan out where pieces must be attached and mark those places with a stitch marker. I talk about this in a little more detail [here](#).

### 3. Practice, practice, practice

Kind of self explanatory...just keep crocheting. It's crazy how much my skills have improved from my first projects from just practicing. The pattern for the ball below is a great project to practice your amigurumi skills!

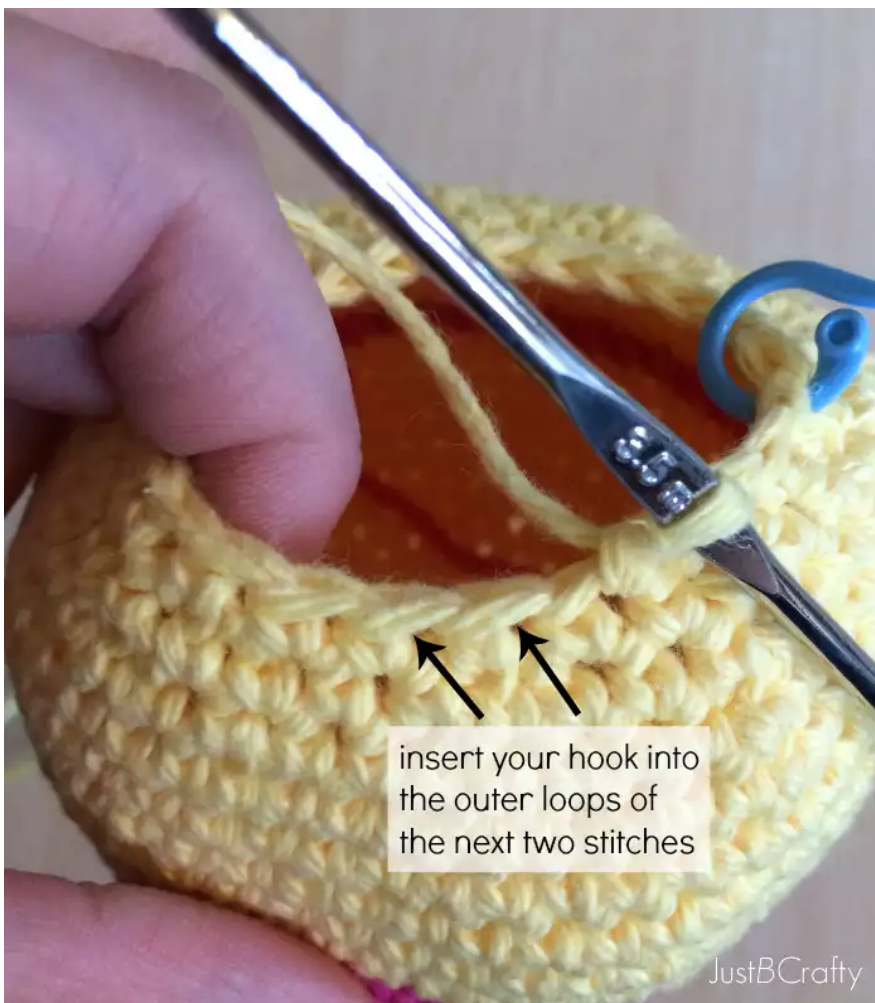
### 4. The INVISIBLE DECREASE!

This is probably my favorite and most useful tip....the invisible decrease! You may be already doing it but if you're not, listen here friend!! I definitely wish I had known about this when I had first started making amigurumi projects because it has made a world of difference. The normal decrease leaves a big bulky stitch that does not look uniform with the rest of the project at all.

For the longest time I could not figure out why my projects weren't looking like the picture in the pattern and now I know why...I was not doing the *invisible decrease*. It's almost like it's a secret or something. Amigurumi patterns don't typically specify the type of decrease, they just say “decrease”. So for you crocheters out there who are new to the world amigurumi here's the tutorial.

## How to invisible decrease:

Once you get to the point where you want to decrease, insert your hook into the outer loops of the next two stitches.



Now the hook is inserted into the next two stitches.



Loop working yarn around hook and pull through those first two stitches on hook.



Loop yarn around hook again and pull through the two remaining stitches on hook. (Just like you would in a normal single crochet.)



You have just made an invisible decrease!





To practice this new skill here is the pattern for a basic amigurumi ball. If you are just learning and want to leap into the world of amigurumi, this basic pattern is the foundation of most amigurumi projects. If you get this down, you can make anything!

**Key:**

inc – increase (two single crochets in one stitch)

dec – decrease (one single crochet over two stitches)

Materials: worsted weight yarn and a 3.5 mm crochet hook

## Basic Amigurumi Ball Pattern

8 sc in **magic ring**

Round 1: inc in every other (12)

Round 2: inc in every other (18)

Round 3: inc in every 3rd (24)

Round 4: inc in every 3rd (32)

Round 5: inc in every 4th (40)

Round 6: inc in every 4th (50)

Rounds 7 – 11: sc around for 5 rounds (50)

Cut yarn and attach contrasting color.

Round 12: sc around 1 round (50)

Cut yarn and attach main color.

Rounds 13 – 17: sc around for 5 rounds (50)

Round 19: dec in every 4th (32)

Round 20: dec in every 3rd (24)

Start to stuff with scrap yarn or fiberfill.

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Round 21: dec in every 3rd (18)  
 Round 22: dec in every other (12)  
 Round 23: dec in every other (8)  
 Cut yarn and secure. Weave in yarn ends.



And that's all folks, you have an amigurumi ball!



Interested in some other amigurmi projects? Check out the ones I've tried out so far!



Legend of Zelda Link





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Have a great day!

Oh yeah, I party [here!](#)

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## Comments



Angela @ Life in Velvet says

May 1, 2014 at 9:42 pm

Gorgeous! So perfect! Great info too 😊 The whole crochet world is new to me, but I really want to learn!

Reply

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Courtney Sanchez says

May 2, 2014 at 2:16 am

Once again your work is great, plus I'm always a fan of your beautiful pictures!

Reply



Katie Stahl says

May 2, 2014 at 4:31 am

I'm clueless when it comes to crocheting, but your projects inspire me to learn ... absolutely adorable!!

Reply



Sonnet says

May 5, 2014 at 4:46 pm

I am obsessed with the star wars crocheted guys! Ok ok but I love these balls too, great pattern!!

Reply



Ritchil Shafer says

May 12, 2014 at 7:43 pm

That Legend of Zelda crocheted character is too cute! My kids would love that!

Reply



Sonnet says

May 17, 2014 at 5:55 pm

Im featuring this post tomorrow at Link it or Lump it! THanks for linking up Brittany!

Reply



Brittany says

May 17, 2014 at 9:03 pm

Thanks Sonnet!! 😊

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Cheryl says

October 25, 2015 at 10:47 am

Just finding this post on Pinterest. Love it. I took up crocheting so I could make amigurumi creatures but have never tried them. I will have to try them now. Your explanations make it sound so doable. Thanks so much

Reply



Brittany says

November 4, 2015 at 9:10 pm

Good I'm glad! I hope you give amigurumi a try...it's so much fun!!

Reply



zuzu says

February 7, 2015 at 8:02 pm

A mi parece sensacional

No sé que tanto pueda hacer pero, lo que sí te digo es que me motiva mucho para emprender el proyecto, ya luego te cuento como me ha quedado. Gracias.

Reply



zuzu says

February 7, 2015 at 8:03 pm

A mi parece sensacional

No sé que tanto pueda hacer pero, lo que sí te digo es que me motiva mucho para emprender el proyecto, ya luego te cuento como me ha quedado. Gracias.

Reply



Iliana says

February 20, 2015 at 8:38 pm

What a relief to find out I'm not the only who spends so much time unraveling projects which did not turn out as I had pictured them in my mind.

Reply

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Anonymous says

February 28, 2015 at 1:56 am

This is so useful, i have been decreasing in a different manner, but will give this a try. Thanks for the tip.

Reply



Donna says

April 20, 2015 at 1:16 pm

thank you for sharing this information! I couldn't figure out why when I did an decrease I would get these holes that showed my stuffing when I was done! I've got to try this out and see if that's what was causing my problem.

Reply



Hannah says

September 18, 2015 at 8:39 pm

What size is this ball?

Reply



Rowena says

October 17, 2015 at 6:24 pm

Thank you! Invisible decrease is awesome 😊 Am going to try it out with some other stitches too and see what happens. (esp. popcorn!)

That's the way I approach things that are new to me – like I'm just playing around to see what happens. Stops me from getting too discouraged. (Sometimes I call myself scribblewoman to keep myself in the 'playful zone' hehe).

Reply



Brittany says

October 21, 2015 at 7:52 pm

Hahaha, yes! I agree, thats the way to be when learning something new, best not to take it seriously or else frustration can set in! 😊

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ChrissyMae says

November 20, 2015 at 12:49 am



Just finished this pattern, and the decrease was new to me. I should have started on these so long ago! I much prefer this decrease, and this was fun to make. 😊 I used shredded plastic bags (like Walmart bags) to give the balls a “scrunchy” feel and sound to them, and so that my baby’s drool wouldn’t make the filling gross. Thanks for the great lesson, and cute pattern!! I plan on making more of these soon to add to Christmas presents for all the younglings in my life this year. Yay!!

Reply



Leanna says

December 16, 2015 at 10:51 pm

Great tutorial! But I have one question. I’m to the point where I want to start making my own patterns but I’m sometimes having a difficult time understanding why patterns are written the way that they are. For instance with the ball, why do you start increasing in every 3rd or 4th stitch and not just every other stitch throughout the whole piece. I would really like to be able to understand why it’s done in that specific way so I can begin to use those shaping techniques to my advantage. I need to be able to deconstruct the pattern in order to learn how to write my own, lol.

Reply



Brittany says

January 2, 2016 at 2:39 pm

Hi Leanna! Good question! Sometimes the best way to learn is just trial and error... but in this case, if you were to increase in every other stitch for the whole piece the ball wouldn’t end up as a ball shape, it would end up getting too large too quickly. When I first started learning I followed a lot of patterns with many different shapes. Once you are used to making some basic shapes you will find a lot of similarities and get a feel for how to construct a pattern on your own. I kind of look at it like it’s a sculpture, only with yarn. I hope that helps! 😊

Reply



Leanna says

January 2, 2016 at 4:28 pm

Yes! Thank you so much!

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Delana says

January 23, 2016 at 4:34 pm

Another way I do it is to go by multiples. When I first learned to make amigurumi I did everything in multiples of 6. Play around with that (multiples of different numbers) and you will see different results.

I like the way Brittany does it as well. Instead of multiples they go up by adding a certain number. For instance, for the ball it goes up by adding each of the following numbers to each row spread out evenly (4, 6, 6, 8, 8, 10). It's like math sculpture.

Reply



Delana says

January 23, 2016 at 4:23 pm

Thanks so much! At first I was doing it wrong, essentially making a double crochet dec, then I reread because it didn't look right. Once you do it right it's so magical. Hah.

Reply



Brittany says

January 23, 2016 at 4:25 pm

Good!! I am glad you found the tutorial helpful! 😊

Reply



Sherri says

May 2, 2016 at 12:44 pm

Beginner crochet learner but amiguri is my main motivator. Thanks for the clear instructions! Question though: do you "turn" after each round or just keep going? Thanks

Reply



Mariannem Mathiasen says

July 12, 2016 at 7:25 am

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Reply



Katie says

July 28, 2016 at 7:21 pm

So, question. I was following the pattern to the T until the 5th round. I didn't get 40 stitches (I got 36), and the 5th row I got 42 instead. I followed your pattern still with when I was increasing. Did I do something wrong? I just want to make sure. Thanks for the blog! Im glad you showed the invisible decrease ^\_^

Reply



Brittany says

July 29, 2016 at 8:01 pm

Hi Katie! Thanks for your comment!

Mathematically row 5 should always come out to 40 stitches. Your row 4 should be ending with 32 stitches.

On row 5 you will be increasing in every 4th stitch, so if you take 32 stitches and divide by 4 that comes to be 8 stitches. This means you are adding 8 stitches in that round. Adding 32 plus 8 stitches will give you 40 stitches by the end of row 5.

My suggestion is to count stitches after each row. It can be kind of annoying, but will save you a lot of time in the long run. 😊 Trust me, I have learned that the hard way! 😊

If you have any other questions please reach out!!

Reply



Mary Ann says

December 28, 2016 at 1:56 pm

Please explain what is a magical ring ?

Reply



Mary Ann says

December 28, 2016 at 1:59 pm

Please explain what is a magic ring ?

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Brittany says

December 31, 2016 at 11:01 pm



Hi Mary Ann!

Below is my video tutorial on the magic ring/magic loop.

### Crochet Tutorial: Magic Loop

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